

November 2004

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Major Richard Varner

Overview

The Northern Command continues to feel the impact of personnel leaving the Nevada Highway Patrol. Two troopers have recently transferred to Parole and Probation and one trooper retired. Three troopers remain on full time military duty. The Northern Command currently has a total of seven trooper vacancies. A Captain position is also vacant due to a recent retirement. The other Captain continues to be on extended medical leave. Two additional Troopers have requested transfers to Parole and Probation and if approved the transfers would be effective in January 2005.

Content:

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The Northern Command had a slight increase (1.3%) in crashes when compared to last month. There was a substantial increase in crashes when compared to last year, however, there were no weather related crashes reported last year. This month the Command experienced two winter storms. The Command investigated 84 weather related crashes. That number represents 19% of the total. When adjusted to remove weather related crashes, the Command showed a 9% increase over last year. There were seven fatal crashes this month which resulted in eight fatalities as compared to three fatal crashes and four fatalities for the same period last year.

Enforcement efforts declined slightly. The availability for troopers to conduct proactive traffic enforcement continues to be hindered by a reduction in staff, combined with the increase in time spent investigating the growing number of vehicle crashes. The population of the Command continues to grow and spread into the rural areas without an increase, and with an actual decrease, of troopers staffed.

The Commercial Enforcement section is slightly down in several categories of their annual goal achievement although overall activities increased. Commercial personnel conducted 536 safety inspections as compared to 374 last month for an increase of 43%. The total number of citations issued increased 65% over last month and 42% over last year. Total safety violations repair orders increased by 45% and total vehicles placed out of service increased by 87%. The Commercial section also handled seven property collisions and assisted the traffic section with 33 collisions due to snowstorms which hit the area.

The Northern Command continues to strive to provide the highest quality service to the citizens and visitors of the state.

NORTHERN COMMAND

CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	November 2004		November 2003	% Change		October 2004	% Change
Total Crashes	457		336	36.0%		451	1.3%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	322		240	34.2%		324	-0.6%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	128		93	37.6%		121	5.8%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	7		3	133.3%		6	16.7%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	10		14	-28.6%		15	-33.3%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	8		4	100%		7	14.3%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		1	100%		2	0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0%		0	0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	3		3	0%		4	-25%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	3		0	300%		1	200%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		NA			0	0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	31		3	933.3%		25	24%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	19		3	533.3%		19	0%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	11		0	1100%		5	120%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		0	100%		1	0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.5%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 2.2%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 28.6%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 6.8%

- Total crashes increased by 6 or 1.3%
 - The greatest increase was in fatal, increasing by 1 or 16.7%
 - Property damage crashes decreased by 0.6%.
 - Injury crashes increased by 5.8%.
 - Eight persons were killed in seven fatal crashes.
 - Alcohol related crashes decreased by 5 or 33.3%.
- Commercial vehicle involved crashes increased significantly after last month's drop.
 - Property crashes remained the same as last month.
 - Injury crashes increased by 6 or 120%
 - There was one commercial vehicle fatal again this month.

FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	November 2004		November 2003	% Change		October 2004	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	10		14	-28.6%		15	-33.3%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	66		110	-40%		76	-13.2%
Other Arrests	323		509	-36.5%		363	-11%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	153		226	-32.3%		172	-11%
Speed violations	1684		1895	-11.1%		1585	6.2%
Hazardous moving violations	679		698	-2.7%		770	-11.8%
Occupant restraint violations *	165		423	-61%		266	-38%
Total violations [above violations included]	4625		5015	-7.8%		4683	-1.2%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	13		19	-31.6%		11	18.2%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	23		15	53.3%		29	-4.2%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	536		398	34.7%		374	43.3%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	1		0	100%		0	100%
Total safety violations -- citation	233		164	42.1%		141	65.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1278		725	76.3%		878	45.6%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	60		41	46.3%		24	87.5%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	32		19	68.4%		20	18.5%
Total school buses inspected	108		98	10.2%		163	-33.7%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	40		29	37.9%		39	2.6%
Total trucks weighed	79		81	-2.5%		16	393.8%
Total overweight citations	6		19	-68.4%		14	-57.1%
Total dyed fuel inspections	406		398	2%		267	52.1%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		2	200%		0	0%

* Seat belt and child restraint

** Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

- Overall enforcement activity decreased by 1.2%.
 - DUI involved crashes decreased by 5 or 33.3%.
 - There was a decrease in DUI arrests prior to crashes of 13.2%.
 - There was a decrease in total persons arrested of 11%.
 - There was an increase in speed violations cited of 6.2%.
 - Hazardous moving and occupant restraint violations cited decreased.
- Total safety inspections conducted by Commercial Enforcement increased by 43.3%
 - Total safety violation citations increased by 65.2%
 - Total safety violation repair orders increased by 45.6%
 - Total vehicles placed out of service increased by 87.5%

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

- The month of November is the second month of the current Federal Fiscal Year which runs through September 30, 2005.
- The Northern Command Commercial Section is slightly down in several categories of the annual goal achievement although overall activity increased.
 - The decreases in the goal achievement can be attributed to some of the inclement weather conditions and training that occurred during the month of November.
 - Four commercial personnel traveled to Las Vegas to complete Part “A” of the NAS (North American Standard) training.
- Commercial Enforcement scheduled a total of five check-sites for November, but only three check-sites were held, one of which was suitable for Level 1 inspections.
 - One check-site was cancelled due to inclement weather and the other check-site was cancelled due to training.
- During two of these check-sites, the mobile PrePass unit was utilized.
 - Due to unforeseen problems, the PrePass unit was only operational for a total of five hours. Although it is not one of our prescribed goals, PrePass will be utilized at a minimum of two times per month for the rest of the Federal Fiscal year.
- Northern Command Commercial personnel conducted 536 safety inspections as compared to 374 last month.
 - This was an increase of 43.3% or 162 inspections.
 - The total number of citations issued increased 65.2% over last month and 42.1% over last year. MRO's increased 46.6% over last month and 76.3% over last year.
 - These increases can be attributed to the increased inspection activity.
 - In November, a total of 60 vehicles and 32 drivers were placed out of service.
- Commercial handled a total of seven property collisions. The Commercial Section assisted in 33 collisions during the month of November due to snowstorms that hit the Reno area.
 - Commercial personnel were called out on Saturday, November 25, to assist the traffic section with handling accidents and motorists during a severe snowstorm.
- In November, the Reno Commercial Section participated in a joint accident reduction program in Las Vegas with the Central Command Commercial Section.
 - This program is called S.T.E.P. (Southern Target Enforcement Program). The Northern Command Commercial Section sent three Troopers and one Sergeant to Las Vegas to assist with commercial enforcement in Southern Command identified high accident areas.
- During the month of November, the CVSI's performed 108 School Bus inspections.
 - This was a 33.7% decrease from last month.
 - The “out of service” numbers increased from 39 in October to 40 in November, which is a 2.6% increase.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	November 2004		November 2003	% Change		October 2004	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER							
Radio Transmissions	86,362		112,843	-23.4%		87,294	-1%
CAD incidents	8,909		9,064	-1.7%		8,794	1.3%
FRONT OFFICE							
Accident Reports Processed	362		310	16.7		398	-9%
Arrest Reports Processed	173		126	37.3		99	74.7%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	9		NA	NA		15	40%
COURT / WARRANT							
Warrants Received	667		686	-2.6		352	89.7%
Warrants Entered	197		186	5.9		302	34.7%
Warrants Cleared	656		348	88.5		1062	38.2%
Warrants Validated	502		89	464		NA	NA
Extradition / Transports							
EVIDENCE							
New Cases Submitted	24		54	-55%		35	-31.4%
New Items Submitted	49		80	-38%		47	4.25%
Items Disposed	19		83	-77%		47	-59.5%

***Court/Warrants had a Trooper that was assigned light duty working in that section. He was unaware that he needed to keep the number of Warrants that he validated. This situation has been rectified.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- During the month there were 3 drivers education classes instructed at the area high schools.
- 2 traffic safety presentations given to almost 200 employees of International Game Technology (IGT).
- A safety presentation was also given to the Minden chapter Rotary Club.
- A high school career fair was attended in Lovelock as well.
- Trooper Allen was inducted into the Sparks Traffic Survival School as the group's newest member.
- The Patrol also assisted the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) with the monthly Victim Impact Panel.
 - We participated by staging the breath alcohol testing (BAT) mobile to screen individuals attending the session for alcohol.
 - We will be doing a joint media presentation during the month of December regarding this court mandated event for convicted drunk drivers.
- We also assisted the WCSO and the Department of Wildlife with the distribution of gun locks at a local sporting goods store in Reno.
 - This ongoing nationwide event, sponsored by a federal grant from the Department of Justice, will distribute 175,000 free gun locks to the citizens of Nevada.

- In other news, a double fatality accident which involved 2 area high school students generated numerous articles in the local newspapers and several television interviews.
- The DPS was recognized in all of the media outlets for the traffic stop which yielded 355 pounds of marijuana.
- Lastly, members of the NHP Honor Guard attended the funeral of 16 year old Stanley Bettencourt III.
 - At age 11 he was made the youngest Honorary State Trooper as that was one of his wishes while trying to fight a life threatening illness. His mother Gayle has requested a display of Stanley's uniform, boots, and newspaper articles be proudly displayed in the Reno office. This project is under way with the assistance of the honor guard members.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

- The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant PSD I positions. There are five dispatch applicants currently in the background phase.
- The vacant Center Manager position is in the interview phase with three applicants interviewing on December 15, 2004. The vacant swing shift supervisor position is in the recruitment phase.
- The radio transmissions in November decreased by 23% when compared to last November and by 1% when compared to last month.
- The CAD incidents decreased by 1% when compared to last November and increased by 1.3% when compared to last month.
- The center experienced a very busy day on November 27, 2004, due to a severe snowstorm. The center made 4,335 log entries and handled 429 incidents.

FRONT OFFICE

- The staff processed 173 arrest reports, 362 accidents reports and 9 Incident/Officer reports.
 - The 173 arrest reports processed in November represented a 74% increase from October. The increase in arrest reports processed was from a concentrated effort to stay current in this area.
- The staff also was effected by the severe snowstorm with an increase in office reports. The spike in office reports will reflect in the December report as the reports are currently being processed.
- The front office is fully staffed at this time.

COURT WARRANTS

- During the month of November 2004, the staff entered 197 warrants, while receiving 668 new warrants.
- The staff cleared 656 warrants, an 88.5% increase from last year but a 38% decrease from last month.
 - This increase is a continuing trend as of late; due to the courts purging old warrants from NCJIS. The staff validated 502 warrants, which accounted for the majority of the time in November.

AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

- Air 1 flew a total of 40.5 hours during November, a 15% decrease over the same period last year.
- Replacement speed enforcement marks were surveyed for the Wadsworth, Fernley, Lovelock and Bellevue sites. Completion is pending a convenient time for DOT to paint them.
- Eight speed enforcement missions were scheduled; two were cancelled due to bad weather.
 - 170 citations were issued as a result of those missions.
- During a mission in Winnemucca, the aircraft was notified by dispatch of a reckless driver approximately 8 miles away.
 - The vehicle was located driving very erratically and a ground unit was guided to its location.
 - The driver was stopped and arrested for DUI, reckless driving, and possession of drugs and paraphernalia.
- Two in state prisoner transports were conducted.
- The aircraft was used to oversee traffic control on IR 80 at Derby Dam on the 22nd during a tractor trailer fire which closed all westbound lanes.

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